

Second Report from Data Group to Subcommittee to Study Early Childhood Special Education: **Efficiency, Cost, and Variability**

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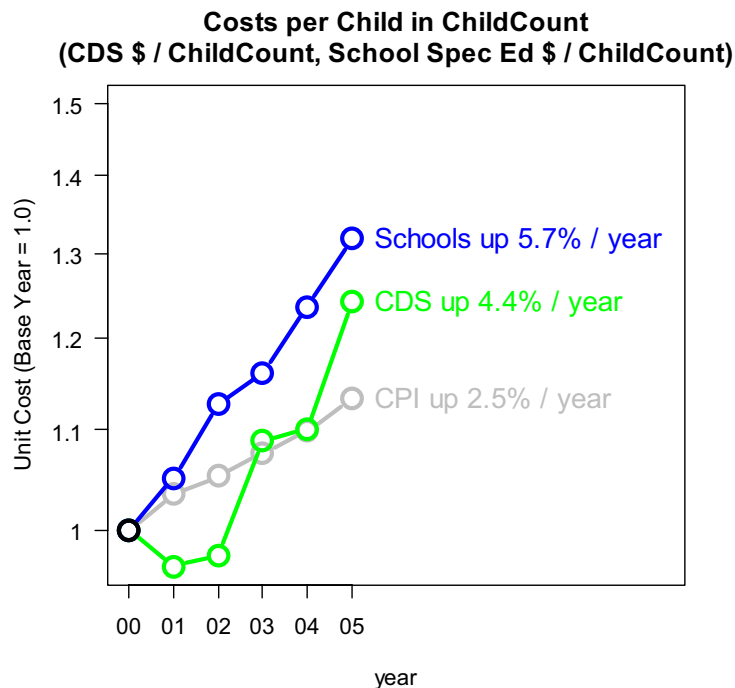
Data Sources

- Maine Dept of Education
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Dept of Labor
- Parrish T, Harr J, Wolman J, Anthony J, Merickel A, Esra P (2004). *State special education finance systems, 1999-2000. Part II: Special education revenues and expenditures*. Palo Alto, CA: Center for Special Education Finance.
www.csef-air.org/publications/csef/state/statepart2.pdf
- US Census Bureau

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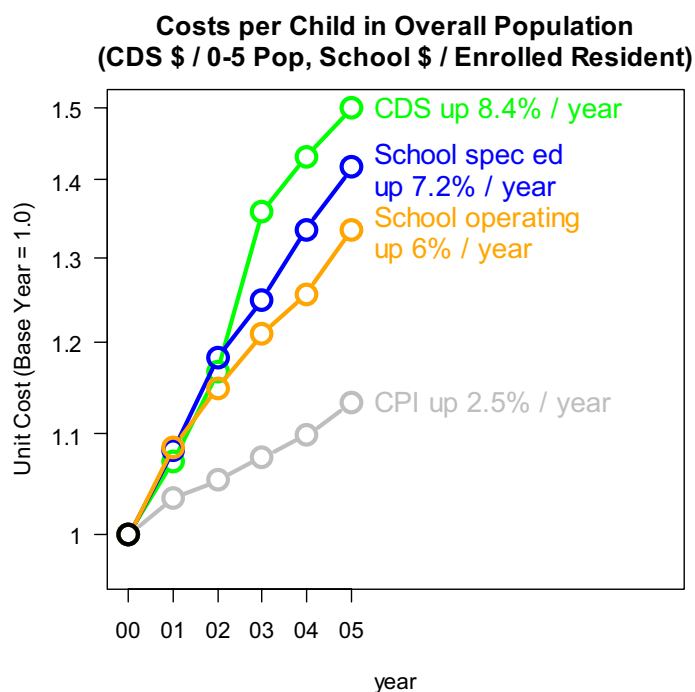
Costs per Child in ChildCount versus Consumer Price Index



- In this way of measuring inflation, we figure how much we're spending on average, on each child.
- Schools up at 2.3 times CPI since 2000
- CDS up at 1.8 times CPI since 2000
- Schools up at 1.3 times CDS rate
- As of 2004, CDS was up at 1.0 times CPI
- CDS cost per child in ChildCount jumped in 2005 when ChildCount suddenly decreased

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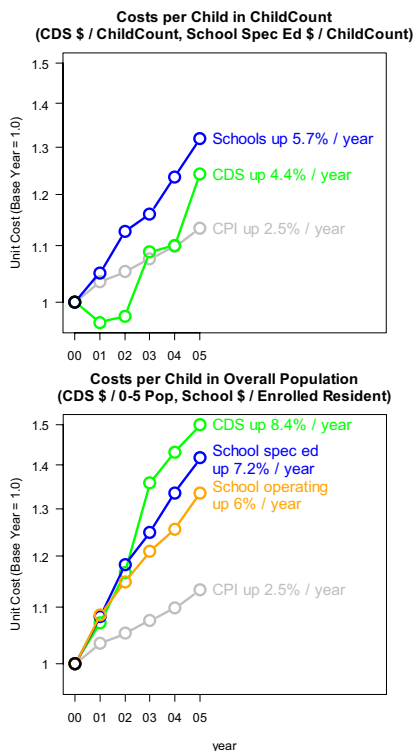
Costs per Child in Population versus Consumer Price Index



- In this way of measuring inflation, we figure how much we're spending on the whole group of kids. These spec ed inflation rates are higher than they are per-childcount because ID rate has been increasing in both schools and CDS.
- CDS up at 3.3 times CPI
- Schools special ed up at 2.9 times CPI
- CDS up at 1.2 times school special ed rate
- School operating costs per pupil (mostly regular ed) up at 2.4 times CPI

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Summary of Cost Trends

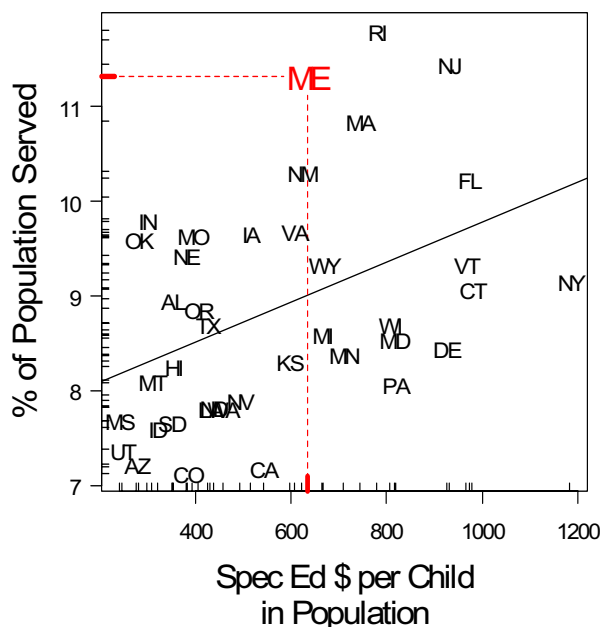


- When costs are assessed **per child served**, school special ed inflation exceeds CDS inflation, but they're **similar**. (Both are about double CPI.)
- When costs are assessed **per child in the population**, CDS inflation exceeds school special ed inflation, but they're **similar**. (Both are about triple CPI.)
- When costs are assessed **per child in the population**, school inflation of regular ed costs is **similar** to school inflation of special ed costs

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Maine versus Other States

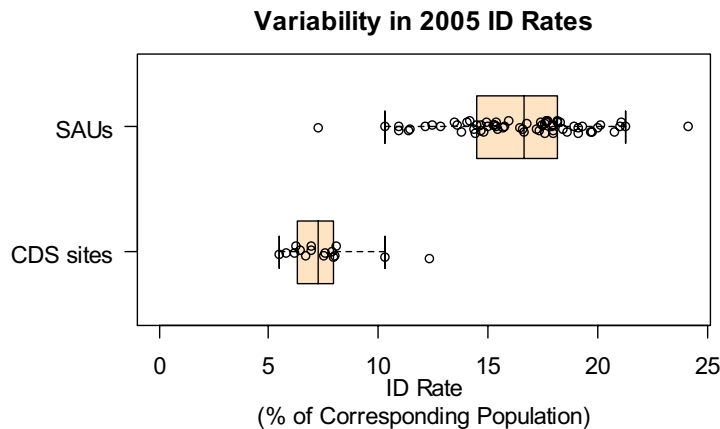


- Using 1998-99 public school data from Parrish and colleagues (2004)
 - Even though the data are old this study was published relatively recently and comprehensively compared individual states.
 - Even though the \$s and %ages have changed, state rankings have remained pretty stable.
- Maine has a lot of students in special ed
 - We serve a higher percentage of students than 92% of states
- But Maine does not spend a lot of money on special ed!
 - Per child in the general population, we spend more on special ed than 63% of states

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Variability Among SAUs and Among CDS Sites



- Compare CDS sites to SAUs with enrollment at least 1000
- census.gov doesn't have 3-5-year-old pops on county or town level, so compare SAU to CDS birth-5
- SAU ID rate is $16.6\% \pm 2.9\%$
- CDS ID rate (birth-5) is $7.2\% \pm 1.2\%$
- In **absolute variability**, SAUs are more variable than CDS
- spread/median is a measure of **relative variability**
 - SAU variability is 0.17
 - CDS variability is 0.16
- In **relative variability**, SAUs and CDS are essentially equal

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Take-home Messages

- In cost per child in Childcount, CDS and schools are inflating at similar rate
- In special ed cost per child in overall population, CDS and schools are inflating at similar rate
- In cost per child in overall population, special ed and regular ed are inflating at similar rate
- Relative to other states, Maine has a lot of students in special ed but doesn't spend a lot on special ed per child in overall population
- School districts are at least as variable as CDS sites in identification rates

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